

APRIL 21, 1961

Approved For Release 2000/04/13 : CIA-RDP70-00058R000200140221-9

Report Planners Miscalculated

Counted on Defections by Castro's Militiamen

By ELIE ABEL

Chief of Our Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON, April 21.—Diplomatic sources predicted today that the Central Intelligence Agency was in for a drastic shake-up in the wake of the abortive attempt by anti-Communist Cuban exiles to overthrow Fidel Castro.

The CIA is headed by Allen W. Dulles, brother of the late John Foster Dulles, President Eisenhower's secretary of state.

The diplomatic sources pointed to a passage in the President's sobering speech yesterday before the American Society of Newspaper Editors on how the United States could profit from the lessons of the Cuban debacle.

"We intend," the President said, "to re-examine and re-orient our forces, our tactics and our institutions. We intend to intensify our efforts for a struggle in many ways more difficult than war where disappointment will often accompany us."

HELPED BY CIA

Although none of the U.S. armed services took a hand in the invasion effort, it was an open secret that the CIA helped to train and finance the expedition.

According to highly placed American officials, no more than 1,000 Cuban fighters took part in the Cochinos Bay landing, which was attempted without air cover.

In addition the planners were said to have miscalculated in counting on mass defections from the Castro militia to swell the ranks of the revolutionary force.

Former Vice President Nixon set an example of bipartisan cooperation in meeting with Mr. Kennedy yesterday to talk over the Cuban crisis. They spent 75 minutes together.



ALLEN W. DULLES

MEETS REBEL LEADER

White House news secretary Pierre Salinger disclosed that the President had met in Washington Wednesday afternoon with members of the Cuban Revolutionary Council, led by Dr. Jose Miro Cardona.

Miro Cardona and four other members of his council flew from Miami and spent 45 minutes with the President. Before flying off to an undisclosed destination, they also talked with a group of presidential advisers—McGeorge Bundy, Walt W. Rostow and Arthur Schlesinger Jr.

Adolph A. Berle, special State Department adviser on Latin

America, sat in on the discussions.

Salinger said the Miro Cardona group reported on the situation in Cuba as they saw it. The only request made by the Cuban exile leaders was that the President use his influence through the Organization of American States (OAS) to make sure that rebels captured by the Castro regime would not be executed and that the wounded got adequate medical care.

In his speech before the newspaper editors, Mr. Kennedy served notice that he expected the Latin-American republics to face the fact that their own

survival—more directly than that of the United States—was threatened by Communist domination of Cuba.

"The American people are not complacent about Iron Curtain tanks and planes less than 90 miles from their shores," the President said.

OAS ON TRIAL

"But a nation of Cuba's size is less a threat to our survival than it is a base for subverting the survival of other free nations throughout the Americas."

"It is not primarily our interest or our security but theirs which is now in even greater peril."

To the Latin American countries, the President addressed a warning that the OAS is on trial.

"Should it ever appear that the Inter-American doctrine of noninterference merely conceals or excuses a policy of nonaction, if the nations of this hemisphere should fall to meet their commitments against outside Communist penetration, then I want it clearly understood this government will hesitate in meeting its primary obligations, which are the security of our own nation."

PLEDGE TO CUBANS

To the Soviet Union, which supplied the tanks and the MIG jet fighters used by Castro against the invaders, the President said bluntly that America's restraint was "not inexhaustible."

Should the time ever come when America had to move

openly to thwart a Communist takeover in Cuba, he said, "we do not intend to be lectured on 'intervention' by those whose character was stamped for all time on the bloody streets of Budapest."

To the people of Cuba, the President pledged they would never be abandoned to communism. The fight will go on, he said, and the Cubans themselves "have not yet spoken their final piece."

Freedom will be in danger, Mr. Kennedy said, as long as the West is foolish enough to underestimate the power of communism to win and hold power through the exercise of mass terror and mass arrest.

"The evidence is clear and the hour is late," he added. "We and our Latin friends will have to face the fact that we cannot postpone any longer the real issue of the survival of freedom in this hemisphere."

"On that issue, unlike perhaps some others, there can be no middle ground. Together we must build a hemisphere where freedom can flourish, and where any free nation under outside attack can be assured that all our resources stand ready to respond to a request for assistance."

Taking aim at the dominant class of landowners in many Latin countries, who too often resist social and economic reforms, thereby aiding the advance of communism, the President said:

"The complacent, the self-indulgent, the soft societies are about to be swept away with the debris of history."

"Only the strong, only the industrious, only the determined, only the visionary, only the determined, only the real nature of the situation can survive."